

Current State of Target Shooting on the Mt Hood NF

- Appropriate use of the Forest, when done safely and respectfully
- Forest is open unless ordered and signed closed.
 - West-side shooting closure areas: Memaloose, LaDee, Wildcat
- ➤ Unsafe shooting, resource damage & associated trash has reached epidemic levels on the West-side of Mt Hood NF
- Growing safety concerns for the public, USFS employees and contractors
- ➤ Law Enforcement challenged to affect outcomes and communicate rules



Illustrating the Problem

- >Trash
 - Dump Stoppers Stats (solid waste collected):
 - 2003-07 avg: 85,095 lbs
 - 2008: 77,036 lbs
 - 2009: 90,099 lbs
 - 2010: 75,180 lbs
 - 2011: 60,895 lbs
 - 2012: 50,270 lbs
 - > Other (2003-2010):
 - 5,332 lbs hazardous waste
 - 58,533 lbs scrap metal
 - 7,342 tires
 - 412 vehicles
 - Estimate more then half of volume is tied to target shooting













Illustrating the Problem

- **≻**Trash
- Resource and Infrastructure Damage





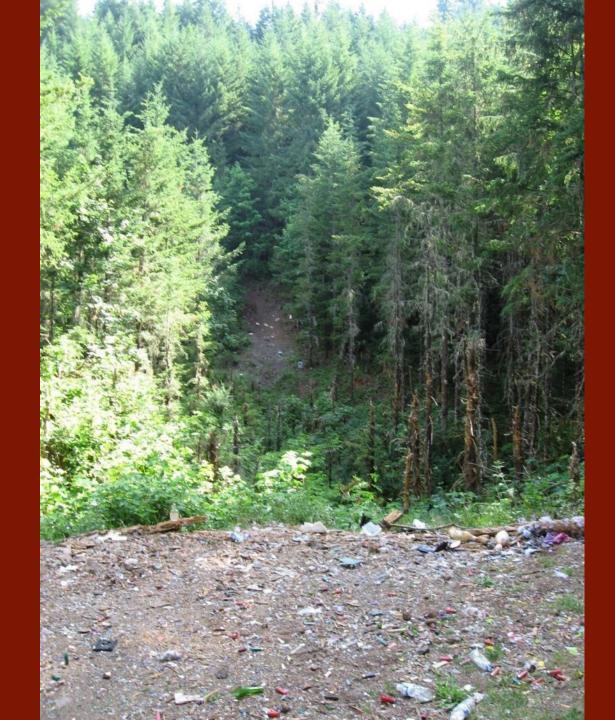


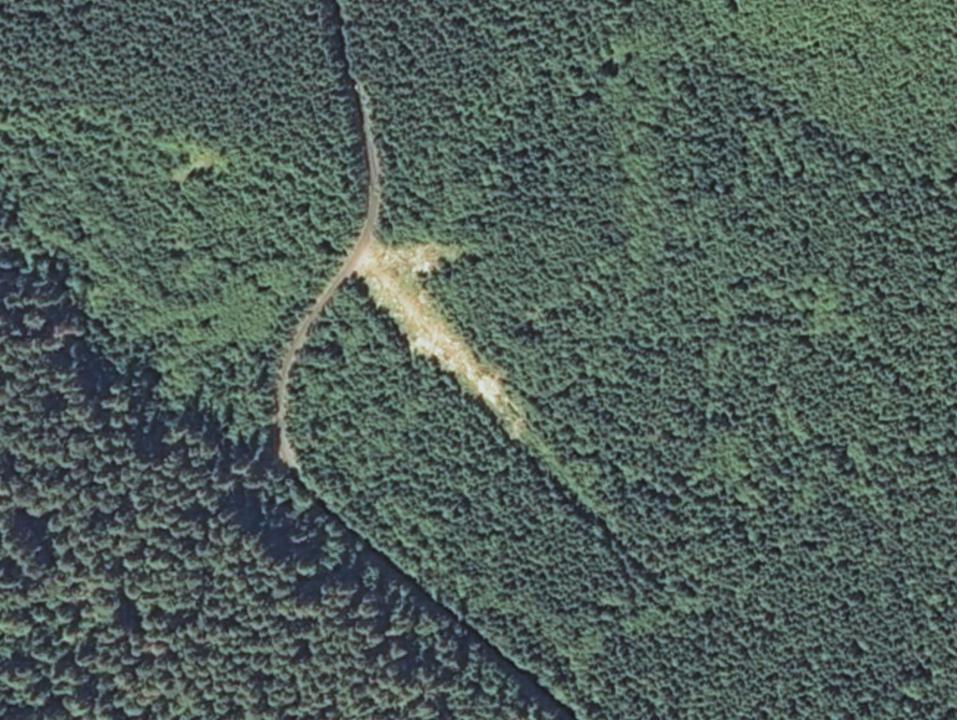






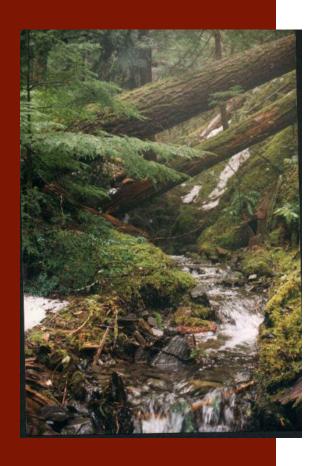












Illustrating the Problem

- **≻**Trash
- > Resource and Infrastructure Damage
- ➤ Employee, Contractor and Public Safety:
 - ➤ At least three times in 1 yr contractors pulled off job due to near misses
 - Employee work interrupted for safety concerns
 - Numerous phone calls of complaint from recreating public, concerns from O&Gs
 - ➤ Bullet entering camper's tent
 - SAF field trip interrupted by gunfire nearmiss
 - Identified as #1 issue of safety concern by employees in safety journey



Paths Forward

- Forest team convened to explore options
- ➤Short Term (this year)
 - Safety protocols for employees
 - Additional enforcement tools (orders)
 - Learning from other Forests
 - Partnerships to improve communications, signage, share resources, encourage responsible behavior
- Mid to long-term (possibilities)
 - Additional strategically placed closure areas (goal of safety and clarity)
 - Investigate providing designated, managed site(s), partnerships
 - Broader information/education efforts and partnerships



Enforcement Challenges

According to 36 Code of Federal Regulation 261.1 (d):

It is illegal to discharge a firearm:

- Within 150 yards of a building, campsite, or other developed recreational site
- Across any Forest Road
- Across or adjacent to bodies of water
- Into or within any cave
- In any way or place where any person or property could be injured or damaged

New Forest Order being drafted to clarify rules and ease enforcement.



New Forest Order

➤Informed by existing rules on State Lands (improves consistency)

Mt. Hood NF Target Shooting.

- No person shall place targets on trees or shoot trees for any purpose.
- No person shall shoot across, from or along any road, trail or body of water.
- No person shall shoot carelessly, recklessly, or without regard for the safety of any person, or in a manner that endangers, or is likely to endanger, any person or property.
- Persons engaged in target shooting shall remove from National Forest System land all shell casings, targets, and other debris resulting from their use.



New Forest Order

Mt. Hood NF Target Shooting (cont.):

- Persons engaged in target shooting shall utilize an appropriately sized, natural backstop.
- No person shall shoot targets other than those commercially manufactured for the specific purpose of target shooting, except for paper targets privately manufactured by the person or people engaging in target shooting.
- No person shall shoot glass of any kind, appliances, furniture, vehicles or other debris determined to be garbage or refuse by an enforcing officer.
- No person shall engage in shooting while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Target shooting and other shooting related activity will be prohibited from one half hour after sunset to one half hour before sunrise.